

MONTHLY REPORT AGENDA ITEM #4

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Subject: Monthly Report
Date: March 14, 2012

- The new website is expected to launch 3/14. In addition to providing a content management system that will allow more users to create content, it includes integration of texting services, Tix Keeper (for patrons to reserve museum passes), a mobile version, and a Director's blog. I will write the latter with guest posts from other staff members. The blog is meant to lend transparency to the library, talk about the issues we are grappling with (like ebooks), engage the community in conversation, and help to give the library a human face.
- The DASNY (Dormitory Authority) funding from NY State has been authorized; this also releases \$125,000 in capital funds. The architects for the master plan (Bermello Ajamil & Partners and Vitetta Architects & Engineers) will be returning this month to meet with the Library and DPW to a) develop a contract and timeline for master plan design and b) discuss the best use of DASNY-related funds. Plans for the latter could include: eliminating present reference desk, replacing it with new book display and furnishings, integrating four self-check workstations, and creating a new service desk that will integrate the periodicals desk.
- Met with Joseph Hankin, Westchester Community College, to explore expanding library/WCC partnership, perhaps with the College's Gateway Center. Will be following up this month.
- Met with the city's Shared Services Committee, and subsequently Dr. Clouet, to explore a shared digital library for the youth of White Plains. As library collections continue to shift from the physical to the digital, the WPPS and the WPPL could work together to jointly license digital content—including databases, media, and ebooks—and provide access to these resources through three portals (elementary, middle and high school), making this content easily accessible to White Plains students at school, home, the Library, and the Youth Bureau.
- Met with the PTA Council and presented on current and future library services to students.
- We will be creating a "teen lounge" on the first floor: two upholstered chairs recycled from the library's attic, a new sofa provided by the Friends, and a coffee table. This "pre-Edge" space, adjacent to the YA collection, will allow us to offer teens a place of their own in the library.